**Kent County, Michigan** 

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

For the year ended June 30, 2005

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Table of Contents

For the year ended June 30, 2005

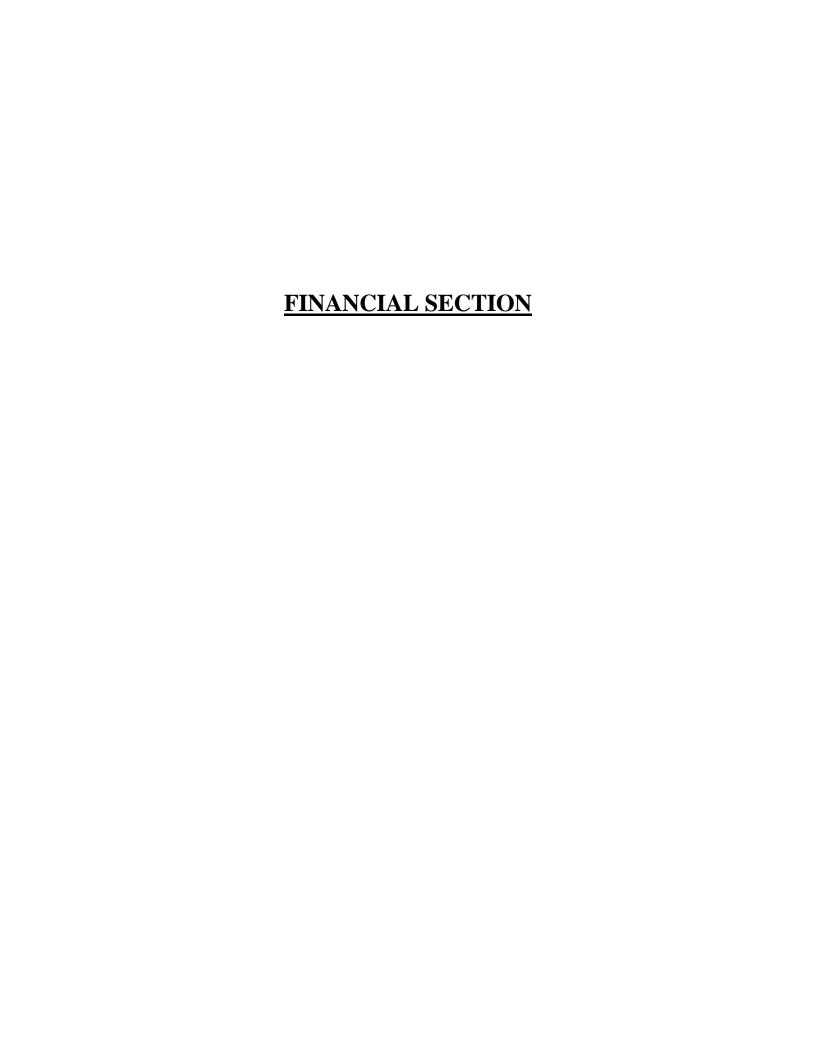
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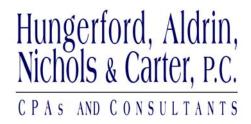
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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

August 18, 2005

The Board of Directors New Branches School

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of New Branches School (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005, which collectively comprise the Schools' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the School's elected officials and management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of New Branches School at June 30, 2005, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 18, 2005 on our consideration of New Branches School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental information as listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements of New Branches School. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Hunger ford, Aldin, Vichol Herter, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

As management of New Branches School, we offer readers of the financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with New Branches' financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

#### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of three parts: Management's Discussion and Analysis (this section), the Basic Financial Statements and Supplemental Information. The Basic Financial Statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of New Branches:

- The first two statements, the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, are *school-wide* financial statements that provide both short-term and long-term information about New Branches' overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of New Branches, reporting operations in more detail than the district-wide statements.
  - Governmental funds statements tell how basic services such as regular and special education were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

The Basic Financial Statements also include Notes to Basic Financial Statements that explain the information in the Basic Financial Statements and provide more detailed data. Supplemental Information follows and includes combining and individual fund statements.

#### **School-wide Statements**

The school-wide financial statements report information about New Branches as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The Statement of Net Assets includes all of New Branches' assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two school-wide statements report New Branches' net assets, and how they have changed. Net assets - the difference between assets and liabilities - is one way to measure New Branches' financial health or position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in New Branches' net assets are an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess New Branches' overall health, one should consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in pupil membership and the condition of the school's building and equipment.

In the school-wide financial statements, New Branches' activities are presented as follows:

Governmental activities: New Branches' basic services are included here, such as regular and special
education, instructional support, administration, community services and food service. State aid finances
most of these activities.

#### **Condensed School - Wide Financial Information**

The Statement of Net Assets provides financial information for New Branches as a whole.

	2005	2004		
Assets				
Current assets	\$ 321,153	\$ 313,941		
Net capital assets	87,080	99,665		
Total Assets	408,233	413,606		
Liabilities				
Current liabilities	45,075	6,078		
Net Assets				
Invested in capital assets	87,080	99,665		
Unrestricted	276,078	307,863		
Total Net Assets	\$ 363,158	\$ 407,528		

The results of the fiscal year's operations for New Branches as a whole are presented in the Statement of Activities, which shows the change in total net assets for the year.

The Statement of Activities presents changes in net assets from operating results:

	2005	
Program Revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 31,596	\$ 30,372
Operating grants	89,283	79,681
General Revenues		
State school aid, unrestricted	908,834	912,097
Interest earnings	4,218	4,229
Other	34,470	2,428
<b>Total Revenues</b>	1,068,401	1,028,807
Expenses		
Instruction	594,991	551,484
Supporting services	466,623	455,832
Community services	21,496	21,741
Food service	29,661	28,489
Total Expenses	1,112,771	1,057,546
Decrease in net assets	(44,370)	(28,739)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	407,528	436,267
Net Assets - End of Year	\$ 363,158	\$ 407,528

#### Financial Analysis of the School as a Whole

New Branches' financial position is the product of many factors. The increase in revenue was the direct result of the Seed Foundation's contribution to building improvements.

Unrestricted state aid accounted for most of New Branches's revenue, contributing about 85 percent of every dollar raised. Another 8 percent came from state and federal aid for specific programs and the remainder from fees charged for services and miscellaneous sources.

New Branches's expenses are predominantly related to instructing students (53 percent). Instruction support, administration and operation and maintenance accounted for 41 percent of total costs. Technology and child care expenses accounted for the remaining 6 percent of the total costs. The most significant contributors to higher costs were health insurance premium costs, wage and salary increases, and the purchase of an instructional computer lab.

Total expenses surpassed revenues, decreasing net assets by \$44,370.

New Branches has been able to continue to balance the General Fund budget through more stringent purchasing controls and withdrawals from financial reserves.

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about New Branches' funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" fund (the General Fund) - not the school as a whole. Funds are accounting devices used to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs.

New Branches utilizes only one kind of fund:

• Governmental funds: All of New Branches' basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed, short-term view that helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance school programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the school-wide statements, additional information following the governmental funds' statements explain the relationship (or differences) between them.

#### Financial Analysis of the School's Funds

New Branches uses funds to record and analyze financial information. New Branches' funds are described as follows:

#### Major Fund

The General Fund is New Branches's primary operating fund. The General Fund had total revenues of \$1,043,346, total expenditures of \$1,071,014, and total other financing uses of \$4,115. It ended the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$274,488, down from \$306,271 as of June 30, 2004. The decrease was primarily due to reductions in State funding and increases in instructional costs.

#### Nonmajor Fund

New Branches operates one nonmajor Special Revenue Fund, for the food service program. Total revenues and other financing sources were \$29,170, with total expenditures of \$29,172. The ending fund balance was \$1,590.

#### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

New Branches revised the annual operating budget twice during the year. These budget amendments fell into the following categories:

- Changes made in February to reflect actual grant awards and to account for the final student enrollment that determines how much foundation grant state school aid will be received during the fiscal year.
- Final changes made in June for increases in appropriations to prevent budget overruns.
- Although the School's final budget for the General Fund anticipated expenditures would exceed revenues by \$133,538, the actual results for the year show a \$31,783 deficit for the fiscal year.
- Actual revenues were \$40,520 higher than expected, due mainly to increased donations.
- Actual expenditures were \$56,284 below budget, due primarily to various reductions made during the year and unused contingency funds.

#### **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

#### Capital Assets

By the end of 2005, New Branches had invested a total of \$191,255 in capital assets, including land improvements, building improvements and furniture and equipment. More detailed information about capital assets can be found in Note E in the Notes to Basic Financial Statements.

The net book value of capital assets at June 30, 2005 are as follows:

Land improvements	\$ 10,415
Building improvements	10,784
Furniture and equipment	65,881
Net Capital Assets	\$ 87,080

#### Long-Term Debt

New Branches has no outstanding long-term debt.

#### **Factors Bearing on the School's Future**

At the time these financial statements were prepared and audited, New Branches was aware of the following existing circumstances that could significantly affect its financial health in the future:

- The School has experienced increases in health insurance premium costs over the past two years. These increases have averaged in excess of 17%. Projections indicate these trends will continue, which will be a huge financial burden to the School's General Fund.
- Longevity increases tied to wage and salary schedules continue to drive up employee costs.
- The current state of the Michigan economy has created a financial hardship on most schools in the State. State funding for schools in 2004-2005 remained at the same level as the prior year. Funding in 2005-2006 will increase \$175 per pupil. However, this increase is insufficient to cover the cost of salary and benefit increases. If this trend continues for any length of time, our financial position will worsen, causing reductions in academic programs and services to our students.
- Enrollment is a key concern of the new administration. Retaining and recruiting students in fifth
  and sixth grades is challenging, as other area public schools change their grade structures for
  middle school for sixth through eighth grades.

#### **Contacting the School's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide New Branches's parents, citizens, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of New Branches's finances and to demonstrate New Branches's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Director's Office, New Branches School, 256 Alger SE., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507.

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Statement of Net Assets June 30, 2005

Assets	Governmental Activities
Current Assets Cash and cash equivalents (Note B)	\$ 5,719
Deposits (Note B)	126,843
Accounts receivable	9,561
Due from other governmental units (Note C)	178,779
Inventory (Note A)	251
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	321,153
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital assets (Note E)	191,255
Less accumulated depreciation	(104,175)
Total Noncurrent Assets	87,080
Total Assets	408,233
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	26,864
Due to other governmental units	18,211
Total Liabilities	45,075
Net Assets	
Invested in capital assets	87,080
Unrestricted	276,078
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	\$ 363,158

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Statement of Activities For the year ended June 30, 2005

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues Charges Operating Expenses for Services Grants		Program Revenues Rev Charges Operating Ch		t (Expense) evenue and changes In let Assets		
Governmental Activities Instruction Supporting services Community services Food service	\$	594,991 466,623 21,496 29,661	\$	22,996 8,600	\$ 72,828 - - 16,455	\$	(522,163) (466,623) 1,500 (4,606)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	\$	1,112,771	\$	31,596	\$ 89,283		(991,892)
	St In	neral Revenutate school aid terest earning ther	d, unre	estricted			908,834 4,218 34,470
		Total Ge	neral	Revenues			947,522
	Cha	ange in Net A	Assets				(44,370)
	Net	Assets - Beg	ginning	g of Year			407,528
	Net	Assets - End	of Y	ear		\$	363,158

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Balance Sheet Governmental Funds June 30, 2005

	 General		Nonmajor		Total	
Assets						
Cash equivalents (Note B) Deposits (Note B) Accounts receivable Due from other governmental units (Note C) Inventory (Note A)	\$ 5,719 126,843 7,628 178,407	\$	1,933 372 251	\$	5,719 126,843 9,561 178,779 251	
Total Assets	\$ 318,597	\$	2,556	\$	321,153	
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Liabilities Accounts payable Due to other governmental units	\$ 26,191 17,918	\$	673 293	\$	26,864 18,211	
Total Liabilities	 44,109		966		45,075	
Fund Balances Unreserved: Undesignated, reported in:						
General fund Special revenue fund	 274,488		1,590		274,488 1,590	
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	 274,488		1,590		276,078	
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	\$ 318,597	\$	2,556	\$	321,153	

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Assets of Governmental Activities June 30, 2005

Total governmental fund balances	\$ 276,078
Amounts reported for governmental activites in the Statement of Net Assets are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds. The cost of assets is \$191,255	07.000
and accumulated depreciation is \$104,175.	 87,080
Total net assets - governmental activities	\$ 363,158

# NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds For the year ended June 30, 2005

	General	Nonmajor	Total
Revenues Local sources State sources Federal sources Interdistrict sources	\$ 61,684 924,878 43,181 13,603	\$ 8,600 415 16,040	\$ 70,284 925,293 59,221 13,603
Total Revenues	1,043,346	25,055	1,068,401
Expenditures Current:			
Instruction Supporting services Community services Food service Capital outlay	585,796 461,971 21,496 - 1,751	- - 29,172 -	585,796 461,971 21,496 29,172 1,751
Total Expenditures	1,071,014	29,172	1,100,186
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	(27,668)	(4,117)	(31,785)
Other Financing Sources (Uses) Transfers in Transfers out	(4,115)	4,115	4,115 (4,115)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	(4,115)	4,115	
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	(31,783)	(2)	(31,785)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	306,271	1,592	307,863
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 274,488	\$ 1,590	\$ 276,078

## Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities For the year ended June 30, 2005

#### Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds

\$ (31,785)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of these assets is capitalized and the cost is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period:

1	•		Capital outlays Depreciation expense	\$ (12,585)	(12,585)
Total ch	anges in net ass	ets - governmental ac	tivities	i	\$ (44,370)

#### **General Fund**

## Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual For the year ended June 30, 2005

December	Budg Original		eted Amounts Final		Actual		Variance With Final Budget - Positive (Negative)	
Revenues	Φ 25.2	00	Φ	25 200	\$	(1 (0))	Φ	26 204
Local sources	\$ 25,3		\$	25,300	<b>3</b>	61,684	\$	36,384
State sources	930,8			930,898		924,878		(6,020)
Federal sources	40,6			40,628		43,181		2,553
Interdistrict sources	6,0	00		6,000		13,603		7,603
<b>Total Revenues</b>	1,002,8	26		1,002,826		1,043,346		40,520
Expenditures								
Current:								
Instruction:								
Basic programs	533,8	90		531,961		491,283		40,678
Added needs	100,6			100,651		94,513		6,138
Supporting services:	, -			,		,- ,-		-,
Pupil services	3,4	07		828		828		_
Instructional staff services	5,2			9,293		11,112		(1,819)
General administrative services	119,0			119,084		114,704		4,380
School administrative services	129,5			129,584		124,054		5,530
Business services	14,5			14,505		16,511		(2,006)
Operation and maintenance services	187,5			187,503		188,332		(829)
Pupil transportation services	1,2			1,241		427		814
Central services	5,2			6,420		6,003		417
Community services	22,2			22,228		21,496		732
Capital outlay	4,0			4,000		1,751		2,249
•								<u> </u>
Total Expenditures	1,126,4	58		1,127,298		1,071,014		56,284
<b>Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues</b>								
Over Expenditures	(123,63	32)		(124,472)		(27,668)		96,804
Other Financing Sources (Uses)								
Transfers out	(9,33	31)		(9,066)		(4,115)		4,951
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	(132,96	53)		(133,538)		(31,783)		101,755
Fund Balances, July 1	306,2	71		306,271		306,271		
Fund Balances, June 30	\$ 173,3	08	\$	172,733	\$	274,488	\$	101,755

### NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **Note A – Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies**

New Branches School received its charter under Public Act 416 of 1994 from Central Michigan University on May 18, 1995. As part of the chartering process, New Branches was instructed to file restated Articles of Incorporation with the Michigan Department of Commerce. According to the contract with Central Michigan University, New Branches is to act exclusively as a governmental agency and is not to undertake any action inconsistent with its status as an entity authorized to receive state school aid funds pursuant to the State Constitution. Under this contract, Central Michigan University provides certain services to New Branches including approval of New Branches operating plan, monitoring compliance with provisions of the charter contract and the selection of members for the Board of Directors. Central Michigan University is paid 3% of State Aid payments received by New Branches for such services.

The School is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members approved by Central Michigan University and administered by a Director who is appointed by the aforementioned Board. The School provides educational services for approximately 136 full-time students as specified by state statute and Board of Directors policy. These services include elementary education, preschool programs, special education, community services and general administrative services.

The financial statements of New Branches School (the "School") have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to school districts. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The more significant of the School's accounting policies are described below.

#### 1. The Reporting Entity

The financial reporting entity consists of a primary government and its component units. The School is a primary government because it is a special-purpose government that has a separately elected governing body, is legally separate and is fiscally independent of other state or local governments. Furthermore, there are no component units combined with the School for financial statement presentation purposes, and the School is not included in any other governmental reporting entity. Consequently, the School's financial statements include the funds of those organizational entities for which its elected governing board is financially accountable.

#### 2. School-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

School-Wide Financial Statements - The school-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) present financial information about the School as a whole. The reported information includes all of the nonfiduciary activities of the School. The School does not allocate indirect costs and, for the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed. These statements are to distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the School. Governmental activities normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, and are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. The School does not have any business-type activities.

The Statement of Net Assets is presented on the classified basis and is reported on the full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets as well as all long-term debt and obligations. The School's net assets are reported in three parts: invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net assets, and unrestricted net assets.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Property taxes, unrestricted state aid, interest earnings and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. The General Fund is the School's only major fund. The Food Service Fund is the School's only nonmajor fund.

<u>Fund Financial Statements</u> – Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Fund level statements include a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. The Balance Sheet reports current assets, current liabilities and fund balances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances reports on the sources and uses of current financial resources. This differs from the economic resources measurement focus used to report at the school-wide level. Reconciliations between the two sets of statements are provided in separate statements.

Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the School considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are generally recorded when the liability is incurred, if they are paid within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on long-term debt is recognized when due.

Revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, state aid, federal and interdistrict revenues and investment income. Other revenues are recognized when received. Deferred revenue arises when a potential revenue does not meet both the measurable and available criteria for recognition in the current period. Deferred revenue also arises when resources are received by the School before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of the qualifying expenditures.

#### 3. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

School-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the grantor or provider have been met.

The State of Michigan utilizes a foundation allowance approach, which provides for a specific annual amount of revenue per student based on a state-wide formula. The foundation allowance is funded from a combination of state and local sources. Revenues from state sources are primarily governed by the School Aid Act and the School Code of Michigan. The State portion of the foundation is provided from the State's School Aid Fund and is recognized as revenues in accordance with state law and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds are those funds through which most school district functions typically are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of a school district's expendable financial resources and the related current liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds.

General Fund—The General Fund is the general operating fund of a school district. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Included are all transactions related to the current operating budget.

*Special Revenue Funds*—Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

School Service Funds—School Service Funds are used to segregate, for administrative purposes, the transactions of a particular activity from regular revenue and expenditure accounts. A school district maintains full control of these funds. The School Service Fund maintained by the School is the Food Service Fund.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in the school-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the School's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted as they are needed.

#### 4. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

State of Michigan Public Act 621 (the Uniform Budgetary and Accounting Act) requires that the General Fund of a district be under budgetary control and that both budgeted and actual financial results do not incur a deficit. New Branches School has also adopted a budget for its Special Revenue Fund. A district's General Appropriations Resolution (the "budget") must be adopted before the beginning of each fiscal year. No violations (dollar deviations) from a district's budget may occur without a corresponding amendment to the budget. A district has the ability to amend the budget provided that the amendment is prior to the occurrence of the deviation and prior to the fiscal year-end. A district may also permit the chief administrative or fiscal officer to execute transfers between line items, within defined dollar or percentage limits, without prior approval of the Board of Directors. Expenditures may not legally exceed budget appropriations at the fund level. All appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

New Branches School utilizes the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- The Board of Directors and the Director establish proposed operating budgets for the ensuing fiscal year.
- Preliminary operating budgets are submitted to the Board of Directors by the Director. These budgets include proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- After the budgets are finalized, the Board of Directors adopts an appropriations resolution setting forth the amount of the proposed expenditures and the sources of revenue to finance them.

- The original General Fund budget was amended during the year in compliance with State of Michigan Public Act 621 (the Uniform Budgetary and Accounting Act).
- Budgets for the General and Special Revenue Funds were adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which is consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### 5. Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is employed as an extension of formal budget integration in the governmental funds. There were no substantial encumbrances outstanding at year end.

#### 6. Investments

Investments are recorded at fair value, based on quoted market prices, or estimated fair value. Investment income is composed of interest and net changes in the fair value of applicable investments.

#### 7. Inventory

Inventories are valued at cost (first-in, first-out). Inventories of the Food Service Fund consist of food, unused commodities and other nonperishable supplies. Disbursements for inventory-type items are recorded as expenditures at the time of use for each fund.

#### 8. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which may include land, land improvements, buildings, vehicles and furniture and equipment, are reported in the school-wide financial statements. Assets having a useful life in excess of one year and whose costs exceed \$1,000 are capitalized. Capital assets are stated at historical cost or estimated historical cost where actual cost information is not available. Donated capital assets are stated at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of an asset or materially extend an asset's useful life are not capitalized. Improvements are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining useful life of the related assets.

Land improvements, building improvements and furniture and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Land improvements20 yearsBuilding improvements20 yearsFurniture and equipment3-10 years

#### 9. Fund Equity

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for expenditures or are legally segregated for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### 10. Interfund Activity

Flows of cash from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated in the Statement of Activities. Interfund transfers in the fund financial statements are reported as other financing sources/uses.

#### 11. Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

#### Note B – Cash Equivalents and Deposits

The State of Michigan allows a political subdivision to authorize its Treasurer or other chief fiscal officer to invest surplus funds belonging to and under the control of the entity as follows:

- Bonds, securities, and other obligations of the United States, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States.
- Certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a financial institution, but
  only if the financial institution is a state or nationally charted bank or a state or federally chartered savings and
  loan association, savings bank, or credit union whose deposits are insured by an agency of the United States
  government and that maintains a principal office or branch office located in this state under the laws of this state
  or the United States.
- Commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the 2 highest classifications established by not less than 2 standard rating services and that matures not more than 270 days after the date of the purchase.
- United States or federal obligation repurchase agreements.
- Banker's acceptances of United States Banks.
- Mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan.
- Surplus funds investment pools.

#### **Cash Equivalents and Deposits**

Depositories actively used by the School during the year are detailed as follows:

- 1. Lake Michigan Credit Union
- 2. Huntington National Bank

Balances at June 30, 2005 related to cash equivalents and deposits are detailed in the Basic Financial Statements as follows:

Cash equivalents	\$ 5,719
Deposits	126,843
	\$ 132,562

Cash equivalents consist of non-interest earning bank and/or credit union checking accounts. Deposits consist of interest earning bank and/or credit union checking, savings and money-market accounts.

#### Custodial credit risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank or credit union failure, the School's cash equivalents and deposits may not be returned to the School. Protection of School cash equivalents and deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Association. At year end, the carrying amount of the School's cash equivalents and deposits was \$132,562 and the bank balance was \$173,192. Of the bank balance, \$131,476 was covered by federal depository insurance and \$41,716 was uninsured.

#### Note C – State School Aid

On March 15, 1994, the voters of the State of Michigan approved Proposal A, which increased the State Sales and Use Tax rates from 4% to 6% and established a State Education Tax at a rate of 6 mill on all property, except that which is exempt by law from ad valorem property taxes, and dedicated the additional revenues generated to Michigan school districts.

These additional State revenues pass through to Michigan schools in the form of a per pupil "Foundation Allowance" paid on a "blended count" of School pupil membership in February, 2004 and September, 2004. The 2004-05 "Foundation Allowance" for New Branches School was \$6,941 for 130.75 "Full Time Equivalent" students, generating \$925,293 in state aid payments to the School of which \$168,103 was paid to the School in July and August, 2005 and included in "Due From Other Governmental Units" of the General Fund.

#### **Note D – Interfund Transfers**

Interfund transfers during the year ended June 30, 2005 were as follows:

	Transfers In	Trans	fers Out
General Fund Special Revenue Funds: Food Service Fund	* —	\$	4,115
Special Revenue Funds Food Service Fund: General Fund	4,115		_
Total All Funds	\$ 4,115	\$	4,115

Interfund transfers are essential to maintain the Special Revenue Fund of the School. The transfer assists the special revenue fund with payroll and employee benefits for food service employees. The School's intent is to appropriate expenditures to these funds on an actual basis to show the true costs of operation for these programs. By making the interfund transfer these expenditures can be allocated to each program as they occur.

#### **Note E – Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2005 was as follows:

	Balances July 1, 2004 Ac		lditions	S Deductions		e 30, 2005
Capital assets being depreciated:						
Land improvements	\$ 12,831	\$		\$		\$ 12,831
Building improvements	18,898					18,898
Furniture and equipment	 159,526					159,526
Totals at historical cost	191,255	\$		\$		 191,255
Less accumulated depreciation for:						
Land improvements	1,787	\$	630	\$		2,417
Building improvements	6,455		1,658			8,113
Furniture and equipment	 83,348		10,297			 93,645
Total accumulated depreciation	 91,590	\$	12,585	\$		 104,175
Net Capital Assets	\$ 99,665					\$ 87,080

Depreciation expense was charged to School activities as follows:

Instruction Supporting services	\$	9,103 2,992
Food service		489
	_ \$	12,585

#### **Note F – Operating Lease**

On January 12, 2004, New Branches School entered into an operating lease agreement with New Branches Seed Foundation for the rental of classroom and other facilities located at 256 Alger SE and partial use of the facility at 304 Alger SE. New Branches School shall pay as rent the sum of \$10,000 per month or \$120,000 per year. The first payment was due December 1, 2003 and will continue for 5 years. As part of the lease agreement, New Branches School shall at its own expense keep and maintain all parts or portions of the property, including the repair or replacement of roofs, heating and plumbing during the primary term of the lease.

#### Note G – Retirement Plan

Substantially all School employees participate in the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS), a multiple employer public retirement system. The School payroll for employees covered by MPSERS for the year ended June 30, 2005 was \$554,339. A Basic Plan member may retire at age 55 with 30 or more years of credited service or at age 60 with 10 or more years of credited service. The annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, is equal to 1½ percent of a member's final average compensation multiplied by his/her number of years of credited service. Final average compensation is the employee's average salary over the last 5 years of credited service. Vested employees may retire at or after age 55 with 15 years of service and receive reduced retirement benefits.

Schools in the State of Michigan are required to contribute at a rate, annually determined by the State of Michigan, of covered employees' compensation to the MPSERS plan. The contribution rate was 12.99% for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 and 14.87% for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2004. The School's contributions to the plan for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2005, 2004 and 2003 were \$81,579, \$71,787 and \$68,244, respectively.

The "actuarial accrued liability" is a standardized disclosure method of the present value of pension benefits, adjusted for the effects of projected salary increases and step-rate benefits, estimated to be payable in the future as a result of employee service to date. The measure, which is the actuarial present value of credited projected benefits, is intended to help users assess the MPSERS' funding status on a going concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due and make comparisons among public employee retirement systems and employers.

The MPSERS does not make separate measurements of assets and actuarial accrued liability for individual schools. The actuarial accrued liability at September 30, 2003 (the latest reporting date available expressed as \$ in millions) for the MPSERS as a whole, determined through an actuarial valuation performed as of that date, was \$44,769. The MPSERS' net assets available for benefits on that date were \$38,726 leaving an unfunded pension benefit obligation of \$6,043. Ten year historical trend information showing the MPSERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the September 30, 2004 Annual Report of the MPSERS, which may be obtained by contacting the System at P.O. Box 30171, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7671.

The total actuarial accrued liability (expressed as \$ in millions) increased by \$2,812 from September 30, 2002 to September 30, 2003. Not included in the pension benefit obligation above is any future obligation attributable to health, dental and vision insurance benefits which are funded on a cash disbursement basis. With the passage of Act 279 of 1996, making permanent the cash basis financing of health, dental and vision benefits, actuarially calculated liabilities for these benefits are no longer disclosed on the balance sheets.

Prior to January 1, 1990, participating employees could elect coverage under either the noncontributory Basic Plan or the contributory Member Investment Plan (MIP). Effective January 1, 1990, all new employees are automatically enrolled in MIP. Participants in MIP, who receive benefits in addition to those available under the Basic Plan, contribute a percentage of salary. The graduated contribution rate is based on total wages and is calculated at 3% of the first \$5,000; 3.6% of the next \$10,000; and 4.3% of all wages over \$15,000. MIP members may retire at any age with 30 years of service, or at age 60 with 5 years of service, with benefits based on a final average compensation period of 3 years.

Post-employment benefits for health, dental, and vision insurance are available at retirement through the MPSERS. Retirees contribute an amount equivalent to the monthly cost for Part B Medicare and 10 percent of the monthly premium amount for the health, dental and vision coverage. Required contributions for post-employment health care benefits are included as part of the School's total contribution to the MPSERS as discussed above.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **GENERAL FUND**

To account for resources which are traditionally associated with the general operation of the School and not required to be accounted for in another fund.

#### NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL General Fund Comparative Balance Sheet June 30, 2005 and 2004

Assets	 2005	 2004
Cash equivalents Deposits Accounts receivable Due from other governmental units	\$ 5,719 126,843 7,628 178,407	\$ 6,007 100,181 4,667 201,154
Total Assets	\$ 318,597	\$ 312,009
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Liabilities Accounts payable Due to other governmental units	\$ 26,191 17,918	\$ 5,738
Total Liabilities	 44,109	 5,738
Fund Balances Unreserved: Undesignated	274,488	306,271
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	\$ 318,597	\$ 312,009

## General Fund Comparative Schedule of Revenues For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005		2004		
Local sources:					
Interest earnings:					
Interest on deposits and investments	\$	4,218	\$	4,229	
Other local revenue:					
Child care fees		22,996		20,824	
Donations		31,658		1,523	
Miscellaneous		2,812		905	
Wiscentaneous					
		57,466		23,252	
Total local sources		61,684		27,481	
State sources:					
State aid		924,878		933,732	
Federal sources:					
Title I		17,413		30,272	
Title V		82		205	
Title IIA		8,755		6,776	
I.D.E.A. program		16,290		14,549	
Drug free schools	_	641		360	
Total federal sources		43,181		52,162	
Interdistrict sources:					
Special education - county		13,603		(6,993)	
Special education county	-	13,003		(0,773)	
Total Revenues	\$	1,043,346	\$	1,006,382	

## General Fund Comparative Schedule of Expenditures For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

		2005		2004
Current:				
Instruction:				
Basic programs:				
Elementary:				
Salaries:	\$	256 029	\$	242 792
Teachers Teaching assistants	Ф	256,938 49,313	Ф	243,782 56,321
Teaching assistants Substitutes		49,313 8,965		4,239
Employee benefits:		0,903		4,239
Employee insurance		62,275		52.440
Retirement		46,416		52,440 42,788
Social Security		24,370		25,201
		1,228		765
Workers' compensation insurance Unemployment insurance		1,226		703
Local travel		285		38
Teaching supplies		13,830		13,554
Textbooks		8,311		6,806
Periodicals		520		0,800
		1,523		1,651
Miscellaneous supplies		1,323		586
New equipment and furniture				
Total basic programs		491,283		448,180
Added needs:				
Special education:				
Professional services		20,464		21,270
Compensatory education:				
Salaries:				
Teachers		31,392		33,638
Teaching assistants		17,676		17,369
Employee benefits:		17,070		17,507
Employee insurance		1,459		151
Tuition reimbursement		625		968
Retirement		7,217		6,625
Social Security		3,957		3,902
Workers' compensation insurance		196		127
Professional development		9,358		15,833
Teaching supplies		1,798		1,718
Textbooks		371		302
Tentoons		74,049		80,633
Total added needs		94,513		101,903
		<i>y</i> .,e 1e		101,500
Supporting services:				
Pupil services:				
Teacher consultant services:				
Salaries:				
Instructional consulting		-		23,509
Technology consultant		-		1,545

## General Fund Comparative Schedule of Expenditures For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
Pupil services: (Continued) Tuition reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 2,020
Telephone	Φ -	1,430
Miscellaneous	828	1,430
Total pupil services	828	28,504
Instructional staff services:		
Improvement of instruction: Teachers salaries	113	
Employee benefits:	113	-
Tuition reimbursement	1,605	_
Retirement	17	_
Social Security	9	_
·	1,744	
Educational media services:		
Periodicals	743	694
Other instructional staff services:		
Teacher salaries	5,517	4,384
Employee benefits:		
Tuition reimbursement	1,968	1,678
Retirement	821	569
Social Security	319	335
	8,625	6,966
Total instructional staff services	11,112	7,660
General administrative services:		
Board of education:		
Audit services	8,000	6,527
Workshops and conferences	- 2.276	130
Liability insurance	2,376	- 117
Reporting and materials Miscellaneous	153 816	117
Miscenaneous	11,345	6,774
Executive administration:	11,545	0,774
Director salary	57,588	52,352
Employee benefits:	,	,
Employee insurance	5,361	4,970
Tuition reimbursement	-	566
Retirement	8,480	6,801
Social Security	4,405	4,005
Workers' compensation insurance	155	97
Charter oversight fees	27,226	27,441
Legal services	74	-
Local travel Miscellaneous	54 16	202
Miscenaneous	103,359	96,451
Total general administrative services	114,704	103,225
Total general auministrative services	114,704	103,223

## **NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL**

# General Fund Comparative Schedule of Expenditures For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005		2004	
School administrative services:				
Office of the principal: Salaries:				
Principal	\$	63,346	\$	57,588
Clerical	Ψ	16,799	Ψ	15,873
Employee benefits:		10,777		13,073
Employee benefits.  Employee insurance		5,380		4,989
Tuition reimbursement		125		136
Retirement		11,788		9,543
Social Security		6,133		5,620
Workers' compensation insurance		215		134
Other employee benefits		812		845
Local travel		-		38
Telephone		1,695		1,450
Mailing and postage		754		693
Program advertising		2,791		3,082
Personnel recruitment		1,190		205
Printing and binding		780		216
Equipment repair and maintenance		4,917		5,660
Office supplies		2,013		2,444
New equipment and furniture		1,217		-
Dues and fees		982		562
Miscellaneous		3,117		3,172
Total school administrative services		124,054		112,250
Business services:				
Fiscal services:				
Bookkeeping salaries		12,684		10,770
Employee benefits:				
Employee insurance		573		80
Retirement		1,826		1,399
Social Security		970		824
Workers' compensation insurance		34		18
Local travel		120		6
Miscellaneous		304		
Total business services		16,511		13,097
Operation and maintenance services:				
Operation and maintenance:				
Custodial salaries		1,824		1,629
Employee benefits:				
Retirement		257		212
Social Security		141		125
Workers' compensation insurance		89		7
Water and sewer		912		1,064
Waste and trash disposal		653		637
Insurance and bonds		6,633		10,027
Land/building repair and maintenance		40,494		32,377
Equipment repair and maintenance		1,526		952
Grounds repair and maintenance		510		550
Other repair and maintenance		703		785

## **NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL**

# General Fund Comparative Schedule of Expenditures For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004		
Operation and maintenance: (Continued) Building rental Heating Electricity Custodial supplies Improvements other than buildings New equipment and furniture	\$ 120,000 7,026 7,450 114	\$ 120,000 7,396 7,915 260 2,920 354		
Total operation and maintenance services	188,332	187,210		
Pupil transportation services: Pupil transportation: Vehicle insurance Vehicle rental	303 124	232		
Total pupil transportation services	427	232		
Central services: Planning and evaluation: Professional services	235	253		
Technology services: Salaries Employee benefits:	1,912	-		
Retirement Social Security Workers compensation	307 146 8	-		
Professional services	3,395 5,768	3,329 3,329		
Total central services	6,003	3,582		
Community services: Child care/leisure time: Salaries:				
Teachers Teaching assistants Employee benefits:	8,315 7,880	8,893 7,758		
Retirement Social Security Workers' compensation insurance Miscellaneous supplies	2,382 1,187 63 754	2,163 1,272 39 1,009		
Community and special projects:	20,581	21,134		
Miscellaneous supplies Fundraising materials Miscellaneous	540 375 	512 95		
Total and and the continue	915	21.741		
Total community services	21,496	21,741		
Capital outlay: Architectural services	1,751			
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,071,014	\$ 1,027,584		

## NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUND

# NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Food Service Special Revenue Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual For the year ended June 30, 2005

	2005				2004			
Revenues	Budget		Actual		Variance - Positive (Negative)			Actual
Local sources: Sales and admissions	\$	8,700	\$	8,600	\$	(100)	\$	9,548
State sources Federal sources		152 8,874		415 16,040		263 7,166		465 12,412
<b>Total Revenues</b>		17,726		25,055		7,329		22,425
Expenditures Current: Food service		26,792		29,172		(2,380)		28,000
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures		(9,066)		(4,117)		4,949		(5,575)
Other Financing Sources Transfers in		9,066		4,115		(4,951)		5,100
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>		-		(2)		(2)		(475)
Fund Balances, July 1		1,592		1,592				2,067
Fund Balances, June 30	\$	1,592	\$	1,590	\$	(2)	\$	1,592

## SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Food Service—to account for monies received from food service activities and federal subsidies for use in administering the hot lunch program of the School.

## NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL

## Food Service Special Revenue Fund Comparative Balance Sheet June 30, 2005 and 2004

Assets	2005		2004	
Accounts receivable Due from other governmental units Inventory	\$	1,933 372 251	\$	1,681 251
Total Assets	\$	2,556	\$	1,932
Liabilities and Fund Balances				
Liabilities Accounts payable Due to other governmental units	\$	673 293	\$	340
Total Liabilities		966		340
Fund Balances Unreserved: Undesignated		1,590		1,592
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	\$	2,556	\$	1,932

# NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL Food Service Special Revenue Fund Comparative Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

Revenues		2005		2004	
Local sources:					
Sales and admissions:					
Children's lunches	\$	8,394	\$	9,280	
Adult lunches		206		268	
		8,600		9,548	
State sources		415		465	
Federal sources		16,040		12,412	
Total Revenues		25,055		22,425	
Expenditures					
Current:					
Food service:					
Salaries:					
Director		1,220		1,215	
Food service		12,875		11,776	
Employee benefits:					
Employee insurance		4,073		3,751	
Retirement		2,080		1,687	
Social Security		1,078		994	
Workers' compensation insurance		330		211	
Food		6,405		6,755	
Delivery		333		467	
Nonedible supplies		778		1,144	
Total Expenditures		29,172		28,000	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures		(4,117)		(5,575)	
Other Financing Sources					
Interfund transfers in		4,115		5,100	
Net Change in Fund Balances		(2)		(475)	
Fund Balances, July 1		1,592		2,067	
Fund Balances, June 30	\$	1,590	\$	1,592	



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

August 18, 2005

The Board of Directors New Branches School

We have audited the basic financial statements of New Branches School as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated August 18, 2005. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

### Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether New Branches School's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of out tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered New Branches School's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors, others within the organization, the Michigan Department of Education, and federal awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Hungerford, Aldin, Vielob Herten P.C.

Certified Public Accountants



August 18, 2005

The Board of Directors New Branches School

The following comments pertain to our audit of the financial records of New Branches School as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005. The comments are made in accordance with Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 "Communication With Audit Committees" which requires that in certain audits, certain matters are to be communicated to those who have responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process. The communications required by this statement, if pertinent to the examination, are as follows:

- 1. Auditor's Responsibility Under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards.
- 2. Significant Accounting Policies.
- 3. Management Judgments and Accounting Estimates.
- 4. Significant Audit Adjustments.
- 5. Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements.
- 6. Disagreements With Management.
- 7. Consultation With Other Accountants.
- 8. Major Issues Discussed With Management Prior to Retention.
- 9. Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit.
- 10. Uncorrected Misstatements (Passed Audit Adjustments).

The communications specified by this Statement are incidental to the audit and are not required to occur before, nor do they affect, our auditor's report on the District's financial statements.

The following are the matters to be communicated by SAS No. 61 based on our observations during the course of our audit of the financial statements and our review and evaluation of the internal control system of New Branches School:

## Auditors Responsibility Under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered New Branches School's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting.

## **Significant Accounting Policies**

Management has the responsibility for selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by New Branches School are described in Note A in the Notes to Basic Financial Statements.

## **Significant Audit Adjustments**

During the course of our audit the following adjustments of a significant nature were made to the accounting records of the District to bring the balances to those presented in the financial statements:

### General Fund

- 1. \$12,735 to adjust federal program receivables to actual at June 30, 2005.
- 2. \$6,688 to record accounts receivable at June 30, 2005.
- 3. \$12,122 to record accounts payable for summer employee insurance premiums.
- 4. \$15,537 to adjust Food Service/General Fund transactions to actual at year end.

### Food Service Fund

1. \$2,557 to record Federal bonus and entitlement commodities received during the year.

## **Proposed Audit Adjustments**

There were no material proposed audit adjustments not recorded by New Branches School.

New Branches School August 18, 2005 Page 3

## **Suggestions And Recommendations**

We offered suggestions and recommendations regarding the day-to-day operations of the accounting system of New Branches School to the Director and Accounting Supervisor as the topics arose during the course of our audit fieldwork. Hopefully, these suggestions will ease the day-to-day operations of the business office and assist in more efficient monthly and year-end financial record keeping and reporting.

### **Other Comments**

The General Fund Balance of the District decreased by \$31,783 to \$274,488 at June 30, 2005. This balance represents approximately 24 percent of the District's 2005-06 expenditure budget. Maintaining a fund balance of at least 25 to 30 percent of the ensuing year's expenditure budget is advisable for New Branches School. This level of fund balance alleviates the School from having to borrow for short term operating purposes, gives the School more stable operating funds during the year and acts as a buffer against the uncertainty of state aid revenues accruing to the District. In addition, employee benefit costs are expected to increase significantly in the next few years, which will require the use of fund balance reserves considering the expectation of small (or no) growth in state aid revenues.

Our audit this year was again completed under the requirements of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 99 "Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit" (SAS No. 99), which requires both auditors and their clients to more directly and openly assess those areas within a school that might be susceptible to fraudulent activity, which would normally include those areas outside the central office that handle cash, inventory, supplies, etc. This is an important audit standard that requires increased face-to-face discussions/interviews with client personnel and extensive documentation of our findings for future reference. We found that New Branches School has an adequate system of internal controls within its accounting and record keeping system, and found those tested this year to be operating in the manner intended. Working with New Branches School's Director and business office personnel, we will be testing other control areas each year as a part of our audit, with suggestions and recommendations to follow the testing each year, to assist the School in maintaining and improving its systems.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the New Branches School Board of Directors, administration and others within the organization. We have furnished a copy of this letter to the Michigan Department of Education as an enclosure with the audit report as required by the State of Michigan.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide financial auditing and advisory services to New Branches School and hope to continue to do so in the future. We also appreciate the dedication and cooperation of the District's administration and accounting personnel in performing their functions and in assisting us in completing ours. If there are any questions regarding the audit report, or the attached communications, we will be happy to address them

Hungerford, Aldin, Vieles & Vester, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants